



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

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TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

David P. Only for PMF

FOURTH OF JULY 2009 ACTIVITY REPORT

This report includes a preliminary summary of fireworks-related emergency incidents, property loss, and number of injuries that occurred on July 4, 2009. Also included is a summary of community outreach efforts to mitigate the anticipated increase in emergency activity during the Fourth of July 2009 holiday.

FIREWORKS-RELATED EMERGENCY ACTIVITY REPORT

The following information indicates the fireworks-related activities that took place during the 24-hour period from 7 a.m. on July 4, to 7 a.m. on July 5, 2009:

Number Of Incidents	2008	2009
Structure Fires	0	4
Miscellaneous Fires	12	7
Grass/Brush Fires	8	12
Total	20	23

Dollar/Acreage Loss/Injuries	2008	2009
Structures/Contents	\$0	\$268,500
Miscellaneous Property	\$100	\$100
Grass/Brush	2.9 Acres	2.21 Acres
Injuries	4	1
Total	\$100	\$268,600

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS	BRADBURY	CUDAHY	HAWTHORNE	LA MIRADA	MALIBU	POMONA	SIGNAL HILL
ARTESIA	CALABASAS	DIAMOND BAR	HIDDEN HILLS	LA PUENTE	MAYWOOD	RANCHO PALOS VERDES	SOUTH EL MONTE
AZUSA	CARSON	DUARTE	HUNTINGTON PARK	LAKEWOOD	NORWALK	ROLLING HILLS	SOUTH GATE
BALDWIN PARK	CERRITOS	EL MONTE	INDUSTRY	LANCASTER	PALMDALE	ROLLING HILLS ESTATES	TEMPLE CITY
BELL	CLAREMONT	GARDENA	INGLEWOOD	LAWNDALE	PALOS VERDES ESTATES	ROSEMEAD	WALNUT
BELL GARDENS	COMMERCE	GLENDORA	IRWINDALE	LOMITA	PARAMOUNT	SAN DIMAS	WEST HOLLYWOOD
BELLFLOWER	COVINA	HAWAIIAN GARDENS	LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE	LYNWOOD	PICO RIVERA	SANTA CLARITA	WESTLAKE VILLAGE
			LA HABRA				WHITTIER

The Department's Fire Command and Control Facility received 1,826 calls of which 1,053 required resources to be dispatched. The other calls were duplicate calls, questions regarding illegal fireworks, and questions regarding cities allowing safe and sane fireworks. This is a decrease of 19% as compared to last year's total phone calls of 2,173 of which 1,157 were dispatched resources.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Special emphasis was placed on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of fireworks. The public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks display instead of using private home-use fireworks. The following is a list of the campaign highlights for 2009:

- Conducted the 18th Annual "Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest" with the theme of *"Attend a Professional Fireworks Display."* All elementary schools within the County of Los Angeles were invited to participate and over 600 posters were submitted.
- A press conference was held on June 29, 2009, to announce the winners of the "Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest" and to award prizes. Representatives from our Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department, and the Grossman Burn Center, as well as the Children's Burn Foundation, were on hand to discuss the dangers of legal and illegal fireworks and the public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks show.
- An additional public service announcement was conducted by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich to stress the dangers of fireworks and fire related injuries on "You Tube."
- Conducted numerous interviews with local and national newspapers, radio, and television stations regarding the potential dangers of fireworks.
- The Professional Fireworks Show Hotline, (888) 654-FIRE, was placed in operation to provide information in both English and Spanish on the locations of professional fireworks shows.
- Public Affairs posted public safety information and videos on the web site at www.fire.lacounty.gov, to emphasize the cities that allowed "Safe and Sane" fireworks, as well as the cities not permitting legal or illegal fireworks. The website included a list of all the professional fireworks shows in Los Angeles County and advised that fireworks are not permitted in the unincorporated County areas. We also promoted the www.safejuly4th.org site in this section.
- Introduced monthly safety videos on the Department's website, with this month's "Fourth of July" safety video included.

- Provided fireworks safety information to all fire stations for distribution to the public.
- Approved the permits and supervised 39 public fireworks displays with a fire safety officer at each site (July 3-5).
- Staffed the Communications Center with Public Affairs personnel to support the fireworks enforcement and confiscation activity of fire units and police agencies.
- Partnered with law enforcement agencies from the County of Los Angeles Sherriff's Department, the City of Los Angeles Police Department, and the Los Angeles School Police. Printed an estimated 12,000 copies of flyers and posters which displayed the www.safejuly4th.org website for all LACoFD stations to promote a safe and sane Fourth of July.
- Provided one on call battalion chief to handle problems related to the fireworks public displays.

CONCLUSION

The number of structure fires, grass fires, and miscellaneous fires caused by illegal or safe and sane fireworks increased by three from the previous year. The dollar loss was up from \$100 in 2008 to \$268,600 in 2009. There was one reported injury caused by illegal or safe and sane fireworks this year. The Department will be compiling a more comprehensive report that covers a 30-day reporting period of June 17 to July 16, 2009. This 30-day report is a more accurate reflection of actual trends in fireworks-related incidents than the 24-hour figures contained in this report. The 30-day report is expected to be completed in early August.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

PMF:rr

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Brence Culp, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Vicky Santana
Randi Tahara
Ben Saltsman
Rick Velasquez
Sussy Nemer